

DRAFT

City of Cambridge Recycling Advisory Committee, 344 Broadway, 2nd floor
May 10, 2017 - Minutes Taken by Meera Singh

Members present: Ilana Bebachick, Keith Cialino, Joel Dashnaw, David Frank, Debby Galef, Rob Gogan, Martha Henry, Susy Jones, Debby Knight, Janet Mosley, Michael Pappas, Anne Sherman, Meera Singh, Matthew St. Onge, Quinten Steenhuis, Mary Verhage.

Members absent: Liz Marr, Laura Nichols, Kristen Watkins

Staff: Meryl Brott, Michael Orr

Guests: Helen Snively

1. Housekeeping

- April 2017 minutes were approved.
- No public comment.

2. City Updates

Staffing Update

- Program Manager position still open

HDR Consultants

- Will be coming in late June to talk about trash limits and zero waste limits

Waste Wizard

- App for help with “Get Rid of it Right” – provides better customizing, makes it easier for residents
- Should have it by June 30th, 2017

Marketing update

- Mike is working with a marketing company to develop a logo that will be used for all Recycling Dept.’s advertising and outreach and products

BYOB Ordinance

- Tallies continue to show a 50 – 80% reduction in single use bags

Curbside compost

- City Council should have decided about the city-wide curbside organics pick-up by the next RAC meeting (June 14)
- \$1 million appropriation has been set aside for 1 truck, 1 laborer and supplies
- Mike’s request to share ideas on how to increase participation on Monday’s route
 - Martha – Add ‘I COMPOST’ stickers on the green bins
 - Debby G – Put ‘compost’ labels/stickers on the green bins
 - Mike – maybe the CRLS Glocal team can help with outreach in the summer
 - Rob – to overcome potential ick factor, give residents the option of exchanging their current green bins for solid sided ones
- Share tips with residents, e.g., to avoid fruit flies, keep the filled up bio bag in your freezer

3. Discussion Topics

Mary Verhage – building composting requirements

RAC's Policy Sub-committee's #1 objective is to promote the San Francisco model of making it mandatory for new buildings to have three chutes – for trash, recycling and compost

Mary's recommendation – why not incorporate this model into a new building code for Cambridge?

Suggests RAC (a smaller group) meet with the Commissioner about this idea – understand what the obstacles might be.

Mary has independently spoken with two City Councilors who have said “yes” and asked what RAC wanted.

Many RAC members think this idea has merit and agree that we should take it to the Commissioner to understand what the process is – how does RAC push the idea to change the building code?

Comments/questions on the above:

Mike - The department in charge of building codes (Inspectional Services) would have to be involved for any changes.

'Three stream' wordage is better than 'three chutes' – avoids ick factor

David – would like to see statistics on the impact on waste reduction in SF with the building code.

Keith – Instead of being a part of the building plan, an area could be designated for compost collection.

Does City Council have to be involved in building code changes?

Janet – City code has to be in compliance with state law.

Rob – use the word “organics” rather than compost – as the organics are anaerobically digested, not composted.

Debby Galef – invite Owen to a RAC meeting

Anne – present an argument to Owen listing all the points we are considering in favor of this new ordinance

Suzy – If other sub-committees are presenting other ideas, maybe we present all these together

The Analysis/Policy sub-committees and Recommendations sub-committee have merged and will be the Analysis sub-committee

The Behavior Change & Marketing and Events sub-committees have merged and will be the Behavior Change sub-committee

Sub-committee breakout reports –

1. Behavior Change and Events

Reach out to CRLS Glocal team to see how we can support them to target residents who may want to compost but don't know how to

Have a library reading series in the Fall

Friendly competitions

2. Analytics/Policy
Focus on and explore –
Building infrastructure to increase recycling/composting
Research three stream systems in other cities
Research gallon trash limits of other cities
Ordinance revision for trash size limits
Franchise collection
Reinvigorate data collection from Inspectional Services
3. Education
Make a 2 minute long video for CPS elementary schools – to encourage responsible waste management
Video to be shown to students at the start of the school year, and as often as possible
CCTV will help
Create a resource package for teachers

Actions needed:

- Mike's request to share ideas on how to increase participation on Monday's route
Put this on the June 14 RAC agenda

All RAC members

Submit Conflict of Interest forms if you have not yet done so

Go to City Hall to the City Clerk's office to be sworn-in as a RAC member

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.